



# Pedro Nava

Assembly Member

REPRESENTING ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 35



[www.asm.ca.gov/nava](http://www.asm.ca.gov/nava)

APRIL 2009

## **Legislative Package to Protect Californians from Sexually Violent Predators Announced at State Capitol Press Conference**

**Statewide Law Enforcement, District Attorneys and Crime Victims United Take Stand to Make California Safe**



Assemblymember Pedro Nava and representatives from statewide law enforcement, district attorneys, deputy sheriffs, and Crime Victims United come together to announce important legislation that would help protect Californians from Sexually Violent Predators.

**Sacramento-** State Assemblymember Pedro Nava was joined at a Capitol press conference by Crime Victims United of California, Sacramento District Attorney Jan Scully, Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, Peace Officers Research Association of California, Sacramento County Deputy Sheriff's Association, California District Attorney's Association, Anaheim Police Association, California Coalition of Probation Organizations and the Orange County Deputy Sheriffs Association to announce the introduction of legislation to protect California residents from sexually violent predators.

"I am honored to be working with statewide law enforcement, district attorneys, deputy sheriffs and Crime Victims United on these measures so that all Californians are safer," said Nava. "We have to reduce opportunities for Sexually Violent Predators to harm Californians. These are common sense measures to give law enforcement officials more tools they need to protect our communities and the victims."

Said Ron Cottingham, President of PORAC, "I represent more than 62,000 peace officers throughout California, and we strongly support Assemblymember Nava's efforts to protect our communities. These initiatives make our communities safe by protecting our children and victims of these crimes. The time is now that we give our peace officers better tools to go after the bad guys."

### **AB 61-Sex Crime Loophole Closure Act**

This bill will prohibit authorities from granting "deferred entry of judgment" to juveniles who have committed certain sex offenses. Deferred judgment can be used to "launder" egregious sex crimes from a juvenile's record. This measure will stop the practice of sending juveniles straight to a probation officer if they have committed egregious sex crimes and will keep these crimes on their record.

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## **AB 168-Sex Crime Disclosure Act**

This bill permits the courts access to the full history of egregious sex crimes committed by the most violent sex offenders when prosecutors are trying to civilly commit them after their prison sentence has been completed. Records of these offenses contain sociological and psychological reports that are a valuable tool for inspection and use in a Sexual Violent Predator (SVP) proceeding.

Harriet Salarno, Chair of Crime Victims United of California, said, "Crime Victims United of California commends Assemblyman Nava for his persistence in addressing issues of concern related to juveniles and sexually violent predators. The nature of sex crimes committed by juveniles provides good insight into the individual's potential sexual and violent tendencies as an adult. Research seems to show that many sex offenders began their sexually abusive behavior as juveniles. AB 168 would provide the appropriate agencies charged with assessment of offenders with more information about SVP candidates to assist in more accurately assessing the threat they pose to the public."

Said, Jim Provenza, Special Assistant to Los Angeles District Attorney Steve Cooley, "AB 168 will permit sealed juvenile records of violent sex criminals to be reviewed by mental health professionals to help determine if the offender should be confined for mental health treatment at the end of his or her adult prison term. Without this law prosecutors will be unable to prevent the release of some sexually violent predators into our communities."

A number of sexually violent predators have recently been released on parole throughout the state, causing concern for our communities. Assemblymember Nava's measures, if enacted, will give prosecutors and the public safety community more tools to protect our communities and make sure that the worst of the worst are not released.

## **American Red Cross California Chapters Honor Assemblymember Pedro Nava as Legislator of the Year**

### **2009 Marks First Year Award is Granted**

**Sacramento** –Assemblymember Pedro Nava was recently honored in Sacramento by the American Red Cross California Chapters as their inaugural Legislator of the Year.



"We are honoring Assemblymember Nava for his work to improve emergency services throughout California and for his tireless efforts last year with AB 2796, which broadens public protections for private businesses and non-profits such as ours for "Good Samaritan" actions taken in the course of emergencies," said Harold Brooks, Chief Executive Officer, Bay Area Chapter of the American Red Cross. "We appreciate Assemblymember Nava's leadership on this and other emergency and disaster response issues."

Said Assemblymember Nava, "I am humbled to receive this award from the American Red Cross California Chapters on behalf of my work on emergency services issues in the legislature," said Nava. "Many people worked very hard to get AB 2796 signed by the Governor and it's an honor to be recognized."

Assemblymember Nava has taken the lead on emergency issues in the legislature. During his tenure as Chair of the Joint Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security, he held hearings around the state focused on improving disaster preparedness and response.

In addition to AB 2796, he authored AB 38 last year, which created the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) by combining the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security. Beginning in January of this year, CalEMA oversees and coordinates emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and homeland security activities in the state.

## Assemblymember Nava Applauds Youth Partnering with Non-Profit Regarding Nutrition Information in Ventura County

The Ojai Valley Youth Foundation's (OVYF) youth media agency, Generation Communications (Gen Com) recently met with Assemblymember Nava's office to discuss important work they are doing in Ventura County to promote innovative retail models, policies and programs that can help corner stores become the backbone of healthy neighborhood food retail.

Through a grant from the California Endowment, Gen Com has been working in low-income, Hispanic neighborhoods. The "Fiestas para el cambio" project includes parties that are designed to activate the community to serve as advocates in order to influence small corner markets to offer healthier options, especially fruits and vegetables. The parties are fun events with games, prizes and incentives to engage the participants while educating them on nutrition and accessing nutritious foods.

Gen Com has partnered with Oxnard City Corps, training youth leaders from both organizations to lead the parties and work with small storeowners. Parties have been held in Oak View, The Avenue in Ventura and La Colonia, Oxnard.



"I am pleased the Ojai Valley Youth Foundation has held Fiestas para el cambio in key Ventura County neighborhoods to educate the community from the ground up regarding nutrition and healthy lifestyle choices," said Assemblymember Nava. Gen Com has also been working with policy makers and civic leaders to support the sale of healthy, fresh, affordable foods in small,

neighborhood stores in underserved communities. Community leaders can assist by creating a streamlined permit process and identifying grants, tax breaks, or low rate loans for refrigeration and other store modifications.

Because the grant ends in July, 2009, OVYF is seeking further funding to extend this important project to influence change and create healthier communities. For more information about OVYF or this project please call Bobbi Balderman at 805 640-9555 or visit <http://www.ovyf.org/>.

## Nava Calls on Attorney General and Federal Trade Commission to Crack Down on Deceptive Advertising by Companies that Claim to Help Homeowners Avoid Foreclosure

**Sacramento** - Assemblymember Pedro Nava recently asked California Attorney General Jerry Brown and the head of the Federal Trade Commission to take immediate action to crack down and stop all deceptive advertising by companies that make claims to help distressed homeowners.

"As families around California and the country face financial crisis, they are vulnerable to the misleading advertisements by companies that claim to provide foreclosure and mortgage assistance," said Nava. "I am asking the California Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission take appropriate action to stop all advertising by these companies, until such advertising can be reviewed and approved. We do not need more victims of the mortgage and housing crisis."



Assemblymember Nava recently introduced Assembly Bill No. 764, Homeowner Fraud Prevention Act, which will prohibit a person from charging an advance fee at anytime for modifying a mortgage loan. Additionally, the measure will require the Department of Real Estate to approve all loan modification and advertising materials.

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According to the Mortgage Bankers Association, more than 5.4 million homeowners are behind on mortgage payments. Many families are desperately looking for help and ways to stay in their home at any cost and many are now becoming victims of loan modification scams. These scam artists main resources for recruiting homeowners is advertising through newspapers, radio, magazines, and television. Recently, several media outlets have reported stories of loan modification operations bilking consumers out of thousands of dollars in fees. We need a more thorough process in place regarding these loan modification advertisements so that we can protect consumers from further distress and financial destruction.

## **Assemblymember Nava Participates in Orfalea Fund/James Lee Witt Associates Aware & Prepare Event**

Aware & Prepare: A Community Partnership to Strengthen Emergency & Disaster Readiness is an Orfalea Fund initiative in partnership with James Lee Witt Associates (JLWA), Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Services (SBC OES), and local foundations. Their mission is to create a community partnership to strengthen capabilities to mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from an emergency or disaster in Santa Barbara County.



As part of its focus on critical community needs, the Orfalea Fund has made a long-term commitment to strengthening emergency preparedness in Santa Barbara County. This commitment began in response to the Santa Barbara Civil Grand Jury report released in May 2006 that examined several key areas of disaster preparedness and identified significant areas for improvement to enhance the county's ability to respond to a large-scale emergency or catastrophic disaster.

James Lee Witt Associates an emergency preparedness and crisis management consulting firm, was retained as an objective third-party source to conduct an assessment of emergency preparedness within the Santa Barbara County Operational Area. As a result of this assessment, JLWA captured seven priority themes for emergency preparedness improvement within Santa Barbara County including: Public Education and Awareness Strategies, Coordination and Communication, Preparedness, Emergency Public Information, Resources and Personnel, Authority and Management, Facilities (including the Emergency Operations Center), and Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters.

On March 13 the Orfalea Fund's hosted an event to highlight the Aware & Prepare Initiative in Solvang. Assemblymember Nava welcomed the attendees and addressed the distinguished group of emergency first responder personnel including Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown and SBC OES Director Mike Harris. He brought the group up to speed on the recent activities of the Joint Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security and the status of emergency services and emergency preparedness in California in general. Assemblymember Nava also presented an Assembly Resolution to Natalie and Paul Orfalea on behalf of their Aware and Prepare initiative stating that "I am pleased to honor such a worthy organization for outstanding contributions they have made to improve the quality of life in the Tri-County area".

For more information visit <http://www.orfaleafoundations.org/initiatives-aware-prepare.cfm>

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